

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

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R 171550Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1758
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0262

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS YO AU
SUBJ: BAKALI DENIES KOSOVO STORIES

REF : A. BELGRADE 211 B. 172

1. JANUARY 17 BORBA REPORTS LC KOSOVO PRESIDENT MAHMUD BAKALI SPEECH SHARPLY CRITICAL OF WESTER PRESS REPORT ON KOSOVO SITUATION. IN JAN 16 SPEECH BEFORE 500 PRISTINA SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, BAKALI SINGLED OUT TWO STORIES IN PARTICULAR, ONE APPEARING IN UNNAMED AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER, ANOTHER FILED BY REUTERS BELGRADE CORRESPONDENT. (AUSTRIAN PRESS RECENTLY CARRIED STORY ON KOSOVO ALBANIANS ALLEGING THEY LIVED IN IGNORANCE, DEPRIVING OF ALL RIGHTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATION AND EDUCATION IN THEIR MOTHER TONGUE. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT RECENTLY REPORTED THAT OVER 100 ARRESTS HAD FOLLOWED ANTI-TITO DEMONSTRATION IN PRISTINA (REF A).

2. BAKALI SHARPLY CONDEMMED AUSTRIAN STORY, CLAIMING IT WAS PART OF NAZI-CHAUVINIST ATTACK ON RIGHTS OF CROATS AND SLOVENES IN AUSTRIA. HE TERMED REUTERS REPORT COMPLETELY FALSE. BAKALI CONNECTED ALL THE CRITICISM WITH THE "OVERALL
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ATTACKS AND SPECULATIONS DIRECTED BY REACTIONARY FORCES

ABROAD", FROM WHICH HE SAID THEY COULD NOT BE ISOLATED.

3. EXTREME SENSITIVITY EXHIBITED BY BAKALI PROBABLY RELATED NOT ONLY TO UNHAPPINESS OVER CURRENT SPATE OF STORIES RE UNREST IN PRISTINA, BUT ALSO TO FACT THAT KOSOVO WAS MENTIONED PROMINENTLY ALONG WITH MONTENEGRO IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMINFORMIST AFFAIR LAST SUMMER AND FALL. HE ALSO USED WHAT IS BECOMING A STANDARD LINE BY CITING ATTACKS AND SPECULATIONS FROM ABROAD (REF B). WHILE IT REMAINS UNCLEAR JUST WHAT IS GOING ON IN KOSOVO, BAKALI'S BLAST MAKES IT PRETTY CLEAR SOMETHING IS, AND THAT THE YUGOSLAVS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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